

MARSHLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:-

The Chairman (Mr. A. E. Terrington, J.P.) The Vice -
Chairman (Mr. F. W. Deptford) and the full Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

Medical Officer of Health:-

C. T. DARWENT, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health Downham Market Urban District
Council.

Medical Officer of Health Downham Rural District Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:-

J. T. DEWHURST, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Deputy Surveyor:-

B. V. BRAYBROOK, C.R.S.I.

STOKE FERRY,

JUNE, 1954.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MARSHLAND RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the Sanitary Circumstances, Health and Vital Statistics of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

The general health of your district has been satisfactory and calls for no special comment.

The Birth rate (14.2) is slightly lower than last year accounted for by 20 fewer Live Births.

The Death rate (8.4) is lower than that for England and Wales (11.4) and the Administrative County of Norfolk (11.71).

The number of Notifiable Diseases (406) still remain high. This is accounted for by the number of cases of Measles (277) Scarlet Fever (37) and Whooping Cough (84) notified during the year under review.

My thanks to the members of my staff for their loyal co-operation.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

C. T. DARWENT.

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS - 1953.

Area in acres	56,652
Population in 1931	15,350
Population in 1951 (census)	16,567
Population 1953 (estimated mid year home population)	16,270
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1953	5,256
Rateable Value 1953	47,018
Product of a penny rate 1953	£198

LIVE BIRTHS 232

	M	F	Birth rate Marshland Rural	England & Wales	Adminis- trative County.
Total	111	121	14.2	15.5	15.51
Legitimate	107	113			
Illegitimate	4	8			

STILL BIRTHS (Rate per 1,000 live and still births)

	M	F	Rate Marshland Rural	England & Wales	Adminis- trative County
Total	2	1	12.3	22.4	21.05
Legitimate	2	1			
Illegitimate	-	-			

DEATHS (all causes)

Total	M	F	Rate Marshland Rural	England & Wales	Adminis- trative County.
137	82	55	8.4	11.4	11.71

DEATHS (from Puerperal causes) Maternal Mortality.

Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	NIL
Other Puerperal causes	NIL

INFANT MORTALITY (Rate per 1,000 live births)

	M	F	Rate Marshland Rural	England & Wales	Adminis- trative County.
Total	3	3	25.8	27.6	28.18
Legitimate	3	1			
Illegitimate	-	2			

DEATHS from-

Cancer (all ages)	23
Measles (all ages)	NIL
Whooping Cough (all ages)	NIL
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	NIL

SECTION A

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres	56,562
Population (mid year estimate)	16,270

DEATHS. The total number of deaths assigned to the District by the Registrar General after adjustment for inward and outward transfers is 137 as compared with 120 for 1952.

This gives a death rate of 8.4 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 7.1 for 1952.

The number of deaths from Cancer of all ages (23) is lower than it has been for some years

BIRTH RATE. The number of live births registered for 1953 is 232 this figure giving a rate of 14.2 per 1,000 of the population.

STILL BIRTHS The number registered is 3 as compared with 5 for 1952.

INFANT MORTALITY The number of infants under one year of age who died during the year was 6 as compared with 2 in 1952.

The rate per 1,000 live births being 25.8 as compared with 7.91 in 1952.

SECTION B

1. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Norfolk Executive Council, 54, Prince of Wales Road, Norwich, Clerk, R. J. Cobb, Esq.

2. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer - Dr. J. B. Ewe: M.D., D.P.H. Croft Holme, 117, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

(a) GENERAL

- (1) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.
- (11) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn
- (111) Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.
- (1V) St. James Hospital, King's Lynn (for chronic sick)

(b) MATERNITY.

- (1) County Maternity Home, Lynn Road, Wisbech.
- (11) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital (Maternity Unit).
- (111) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.

(c) INFECTIOUS

- (1) County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.
- (11) Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (111) Peterborough Isolation Hospital.

(d) SANATORIA

- (1) Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.
- (11) Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt.

(e) MENTAL

- (1) St. Andrews Hospital, Norwich.
- (11) Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.
- (111) Heckingham Hospital, Norwich.
- (1V) Little Plumstead, Norwich.

3. MATERNITY SERVICES.

- (a) District Nurses (showing Parishes and Villages served)
Nurse Hunting, Gonville Terrace, Terrington St. Clement
(Terrington St. Clement and Terrington St. John)

Nurse Ashworth, Kirk Farm, Walpole St. Andrew.
(Walpole St. Andrew and Walpole St. Peter).

Nurse Cook, Old School House, Terrington St. John.
(Walpole St. Andrew and Walpole St. Peter).

Nurse Johnson, Council Houses, Nr. Church Farm, Tilney
All Saints.
(Tilney All Saints, Tilney St. Lawrence and Clenchwarton)

Nurses Swetman and Thompson, 14, Lode Avenue, Upwell.
(Upwell, Outwell and Welney).

Nurses Gilbert and Waite, 86, Chapnall Road, Walsoken.
(West Walton, Walsoken (Norfolk part) Marshland St.
James and Emneth).

(b) MATERNITY

Beds in Regional Hospital Board Establishments.
(1) Stow Hall Maternity Home, Stow Bardolph.

4. AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

This is a County Council function and is controlled
by the Joint Ambulance Committee. It is worked on an
Agency basis by the British Red Cross and the Order of
St. John and W.V.S

The Marshland Area is jointly served by the Downham
Market and King's Lynn Ambulances.

Infectious Disease Cases are conveyed by East Dereham,
Wisbech and King's Lynn Ambulances.

5. RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN MEDICAL LOAN DEPOTS.

- (a) Terrington St. John - Mrs. D. Greer.
- (b) Walpole St. Peter - Mrs. Woods.
- (c) Terrington St. Clement - Mrs. Mallett, Lovells Cottage.
- (d) Outwell - Mrs. Roper, Eason House, Outwell.
- (e) Three Holes - Mrs. Jerney, "Roysain" Three Holes.

6. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES

(a) INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

- (1) Terrington St. Clement. 3rd Tuesday - 2 to 4 p.m.
- (11) Outwell. 3rd Monday - 2 to 4 p.m.

The Assistant County Medical Officer of Health attends at the above Sessions.

In addition, Village Infant Welfare Centres are held at the following villages - Emneth, Marshland St. James, Tilney St. Lawrence, Walpole St. Peter and West Walton. These centres are conducted by the Local Nurse/Midwives and Health Visitors, and are visited periodically by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

(b) SCHOOL MINOR AILMENT CLINICS

- (1) Terrington St. Clement Secondary School (every Tuesday during term)
- (11) Upwell Modern Secondary School 1st 3rd and 5th Thursdays (during term)

The School Nurse attends at the above sessions and the Assistant Medical Officer at one session per month.

(c) SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC

Upwell Modern Secondary School (closed - no Dental Clinic available)

(d) HOME HELP SERVICE

The County Home Help Scheme is doing excellent work and Home Helps are at present available for the following parishes and villages - Terrington St. John, Terrington St. Clement, Upwell, Outwell, Walpole St. Andrew and St. Peter, Tilney St. Lawrence, Clenchwarton, Islington, Emneth and Marshland St. James.

7. VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC.

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

MALES: Tuesdays and Fridays - 7 p.m.

FEMALES AND CHILDREN: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 3 p.m.

8. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

- (1) Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Senior Sanitary Inspector's staff.
- (11) Disinfestation of bedding, clothing etc. which cannot be carried out by this department, are sent to the East Dereham Isolation Hospital.

9. LABORATORY SERVICE.

- (a) Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich. Under the direction of Dr. L. M. Dowsett.
- (b) Public Analyst, W. Lincolne Sutton, Esq F.R.I.C. Redwell Street, Norwich.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

SMALL POX

NIL

SCARLET FEVER

There were 35 cases during the year of which 12 were removed to Isolation Hospitals.

DIPHTHERIA

It is gratifying to report that NO cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

When the campaign against diphtheria started in 1940 there were 2,480 deaths in England and Wales in that year.

As the vigour of the campaign increased - so did the death rate begin to fall rapidly.

There were only 31 deaths in 1952 - the lowest rate ever recorded.

The following table gives the number of children immunised since the inception of the scheme and up to the 31st December, 1953.

Under 1 yr.	1 - 4 yrs	5 - 9 yrs	10 - 14 yrs	TOTAL	Mid 1953 Child Population.
66	435	621	984	2106	3962

Percentage immunised 53.2%

PUERPERAL FEVER

No cases.

PRIMARY PNEUMONIA

8 cases.

MEASLES

There was a somewhat severe epidemic of Measles (277) cases chiefly during the months of March and April. There were no deaths. Measles is sporadic and outbreaks have been prevalent throughout the whole country.

WHOOPING COUGH.

There were 84 cases in 1953 as against 64 in 1952.

TUBERCULOSIS (all forms)

This table gives the number of cases assigned to this District during 1953.

Tuberculosis all forms			Rate per 1,000 population M.R.D.	County rate per 1,000 population.
Male	Female	Total		
3	8	11	0.67	0.13

SECTION D.

Table No. 1.
STATISTICAL TABLES, 1953
Causes of Death.

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis respiratory	--	--	--
Tuberculosis other	--	--	--
Syphilitic disease	--	--	--
Diphtheria	--	--	--
Whooping Cough	--	--	--
Meningococcal infections	--	--	--
Acute Poliomyelitis	--	--	--
Measles	--	--	--
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	--	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm: Stomach	3	--	3
Malignant Neoplasm: Lung, Bronchus	4	--	4
Malignant Neoplasm: Breast	--	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm: Uterus	--	2	2
Other Malignant Lymphatic and Neoplasm	8	5	13
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	--	1	1
Diabetes	--	1	1
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	6	6	12
Coronary disease: Angina	7	3	10
Hypertension with Heart Disease	--	1	1
Other Heart Diseases	15	13	28
Other Circulatory diseases	9	4	13
Influenza	--	--	--
Pneumonia	5	4	9
Bronchitis	7	2	9
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	--	1
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	1	--	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	--	--	--
Nephritis, Nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	3	--	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	--	--	--
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	2	7	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	--	4
All other accidents	2	2	4
Suicide	3	--	3
Homicide and Operations of War	--	--	--
All causes	82	55	137

SECTION D (continued)

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR - 1953

Table No. 2.

CAUSES OF DEATH	AGE IN WEEKS						TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5 -- 52		
Congenital Malformations	2					2	
Disease of Early Infancy							
(a) Congenital debility							
(b) Premature Birth							
(c) Injury at Birth							
(d) Atelectasis							
(e) Others					2	2	
Disease of the respiratory System					2	2	
Diseases of Nervous System							
Diseases of Digestive System							
Tuberculosis Disease							
Infectious Disease							
Syphilis							
Overlaying							
Violence							
All other causes							
Total	2				4	6	

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1953

Table No. 3. Notification in Age Groups

DISEASE	AGES												65 & Tot Dea	al. the
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	over		
Scarlet Fever	--	--	1	1	2	30	--	--	1	--	--	--	35	--
Puerperal - Pyrexia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Measles	3	14	29	31	39	139/15	3	3	1	--	--	--	277	--
Whooping Cough	6	5	9	10	16	35	2	1	--	--	--	--	84	--
Erysipelas	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	--
Pneumonia	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	2	--	3	--	8	--
Infective Jaundice	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	1	--
Acute Poliomyelitis	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Typhoid	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dysentery	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Meningococcal Infection	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
TOTALS	9	19	39	42	57	206	17	5	6	2	3	1	406	--

SECTION D (continued)

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - 1953

Table No. 4.
(Other than Tuberculosis)

DISEASES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec.	T
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	2	14	7	7	35
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	21	60	116	70	8	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	272
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	30	7	4	10	28	1	4	-	84
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	1	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	8
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	22	61	118	75	39	7	9	10	30	16	12	7	400

NEW CASES AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS - 1953

AGE IN YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-respir.		Respiratory		Non-respir.	
	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.
-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	4	-	2	-	-	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	6	1	2	-	-	-	-

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlomen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

SECTION E.

WATER SUPPLY

A survey was commenced of areas recommended by the Parish Councils of the district for consideration of the extension of piped water supplies. The proposals will eventually be prepared in conjunction with the Wisbech Water Board for the Council's consideration.

The only water supply for remote areas not already covered by the Board's mains is rainwater collected from roofs.

The Board are responsible for Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis of piped supplies.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The cesspool and privy vault emptying service continues to operate very satisfactorily and the table below indicates that not only is the demand for this service increasing but many privy vaults are now being converted to water closets and cesspools.

The emptying of sewage disposal plants on Council Housing Estates has continued and it may be that this work will increase as dyke pollution increases.

Year	Cesspools	Privy Vaults	Sewage Disposal Plants
1950	502	449	11
1951	526	465	19
1952	481	459	51
1953	685	394	54

In April 1953 a scheme was prepared for the conversion of pail closets to water closets in 62 houses owned by the Council as follows:-

Upwell	24	The scheme was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and commenced in July 1953.
Emneth	8	
West Walton	4	
Walpole St. Peter	6	
Walpole St. Andrew	6	
Clenchwarton	6	
Terrington St. Clement	8	
<hr/> 62 <hr/>		

RIVER POLLUTION PREVENTION ACTS

The whole district continued to be covered and controlled by the two River Boards of the Nene and Ouse.

A complete survey of the district was made by this department with the Ouse Pollution Officer at his request.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

One slight case was reported by a landlord of a vacated cottage. The infestation was not heavy and the premises were cleansed satisfactorily.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

No new licences were issued for Moveable Dwellings. In all cases where applied for the existing licences were extended for a further period of 12 months.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

The details of the years work by the Rodent Operator are given below. Infestations were in no cases exceptionally heavy but some good results were obtained.

Reports of Infestations by Property Owners	Visits Made	General Surveys	Council Property Visits	Refuse Tips Visits
84	350	270	87	135

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Following difficulty with private contractors for the refuse collection service, the Council commenced a collection by direct labour. A Dennis Refuse Collection Vehicle was purchased and the new scheme commenced July 1953. It has continued satisfactorily, although the problem of suitable tipping areas is becoming very difficult, especially in the Upwell and Outwell parishes.

Road cleansing was carried out by the Norfolk County Council who are the District Highway Authority.

VERMINOUS PERSONS AND PREMISES

No action was necessary under Section 85 of the Public Health Act 1936 for the removal for cleansing of verminous persons.

Three dwellings were reported as being infested with vermin and were disinfested by the staff of the Department.

HOUSING

During 1953 the following new Council Houses were completed and occupied in the following parishes.

Outwell	10
Tilney cum Islington	4
Walpole St. Peter	6
Tilney St. Lawrence	12
Torrington St. Clement	20
Upwell	4
	<hr/>
	56
	<hr/>

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

29 licences were granted under the Civil Building Regulations for the erection of dwellings by Private Enterprise and consent was given by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the erection of two agricultural workers cottages under the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946.

31 houses were completed and occupied.

REQUISITIONED PROPERTIES

Two properties requisitioned during the National Emergency were released during the year leaving a total of four still held.

REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS

6 Civil Building Licences were issued for major repairs and improvements to dwellings.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SAMPLING

All sampling is carried out by the County Health Department.

FOOD PREMISES

The bakehouses registered in the district were inspected at regular intervals.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

All meat is slaughtered at the Central Abbatoirs at Wisbech and King's Lynn.

MEAT AND FOOD INSECTION (continued)

Thirty four investigations were made into cases of alleged unsound food. The following goods were surrendered voluntarily and condemned and destroyed:-

Beef (home killed).....	34½ lbs.
Processed meat	5 tins
Processed milk	50 tins
Processed fruit	3 tins
Cheese	3½ lbs

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Inspections made	60
Disinfections	35

NUISANCES

Inspections made	98
Notices served (informal)	20
Abatements	20

NEW BUILDINGS

Inspections made	163
New dwellings completed ,.....	31

SCHOOLS

Inspections made	16
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KNACKERS YARDS

Licences granted	1
Inspections made	1

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND SHOPS

Inspections made	34
Number of written notices	Nil
Prosecutions	Nil

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1953.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Act, 1936)..... 72
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 110
2. (a) Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health to be unfit for human habitation 7
- (b) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 62

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by local authority or their officers..... 30

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under appropriate sections of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
- (2) Number of dwellings which were rendered fit after service of formal notice Nil
 - (a) by owners Nil
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil
- (2) Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices... Nil
 - (a) by owners..... Nil
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 7
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished or not subsequently re-let in pursuance of Demolition Orders 7

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. DEWHURST.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

